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« The imagined embrace: gender, identity, and Iranian ethnicity in Jahangiri paintings », in : Michel Mazzaoui, ed., *Safavid Iran and Her Neighbors*. Salt Lake City, University of Utah Press, 2003, pp. 49-61.

Christoph Werner



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- 1 Naming it an essay in psychoanalytic fantasy, Cole takes an album of paintings ordered by the Mughal ruler Jahāngīr that depict him together with Šāh ‘Abbās I to discuss Irano-Indian identities and gender reversals. Playing with the hidden imagery of homoerotic symbolism, Jahāngīr, the “effeminate dandy castrated by a domineering Nur Jahan”, is seen embracing the small, dark skinned ‘Abbās who is “reaching out for Jahangir’s crotch” in one of the pictures. This is a highly stimulating contribution, where the difficulty to differentiate between the fantasies of the author and those ascribed to Jahāngīr adds considerably to the pleasure of reading.
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